

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1-28 have been allowed. Claim 29 has been added. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original specification and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 16, 19, 22, 26 and 29 are in independent form.

An Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 was filed on January 26, 2005 in the subject application. In that Amendment, Claim 29 was added; no other changes to the claims were made. However, since that Amendment has not yet been entered, Claim 29 is herein again presented as a new claim. Claim 29 as presented herein differs from Claim 29 as presented in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, as explained below. Thus, the instant Amendment supersedes the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

Claim 29 as presented herein differs from Claim 29 as presented in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, at lines 7, 10, 13 and 16, in order to further clarify the side of the respective liquid supply openings on which the respective ejection outlet arrays are disposed. Figs. 1(a)-(c) show an example of the arrangement recited in Claim 29.

In Fig. 1(c), the first liquid supply opening is the second one from the left side of the page, the second liquid supply opening is the third one from the left side of the page (i.e., the middle one), and the third liquid supply opening is the fourth one from the left side of the page. Thus, the “direction” recited in Claim 29 (see lines 3-4 of the claim) is the direction from left to right in Figs. 1(a) and 1(c). Therefore, the side (of any liquid supply opening) facing the direction is the right side in those figures, and the side (of any liquid supply opening) facing away from the direction is the left side.

In Fig. 1(a), the first ejection outlet array is indicated by reference numeral 21, the second ejection outlet array is indicated by reference numeral 22, the third ejection outlet array is indicated by reference numeral 31, and the fourth ejection outlet array is indicated by reference numeral 32. The liquid supply openings are not shown in Fig. 1(a).

The first ejection outlet array 21 is on a side of the second liquid supply opening facing away from the direction (i.e., the left side of the second liquid supply opening), the second ejection outlet array 22 is on a side of the first liquid supply opening facing away from the direction (i.e., the left side of the first liquid supply opening), the third ejection outlet array 31 is on a side of the second liquid supply opening facing the direction (i.e., the right side of the second liquid supply opening), and the fourth ejection outlet array 32 is on a side of the third liquid supply opening facing the direction (i.e., the right side of the third liquid supply opening).

Of course, the details of the figures are not to be taken as limiting the scope of the claims.

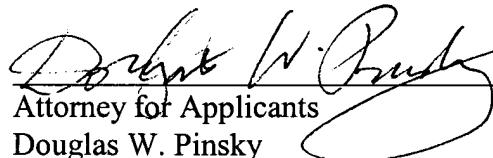
By virtue of such arrangement (e.g., the second and fourth ejection outlet arrays are relatively remote from each other), image quality can be improved, since such arrangement can prevent the situation in which liquid is ejected onto the recording material before previously ejected liquid has been sufficiently fixed to the recording material.

Applicants note with appreciation that, in a telephone conversation on January 25, 2005 between Applicants' undersigned representative and the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that he would enter the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 presenting new Claim 29. On at least the same basis, Applicants submit that Claim 29 as presented herein is allowable.

Favorable consideration and entry hereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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